



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue #14

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

13 August 2009

*****Edisto Fall Field Day*****

Do not forget to put the Edisto Fall Field Day on your calendars. The event is always held on the first Thursday in September, and that falls on 3 September this year. There will be tours covering row-crops, new technology, peanut production, cattle production, bull test, and vegetable production.

Pest Patrol Hotline

A summary of current problems with insects is available this season via a toll-free hotline. Simply call the free number (877) 285-8525 and select the messages you would like to hear. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

Cotton Situation

As of 9 August 2009, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 72% of the crop with bolls set, about equal with where we were last year at 75% and the 5-yr average of 69%. Conditions were described as 1% excellent, 56% good, 40% fair, 3% poor, and 0% very poor for the crop. It was getting very dry, but widespread rainfall yesterday and today will certainly help the crop. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Situation

As of 9 August 2009, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 70% of the crop reported as blooming, behind where we were last year at 74% and the 5-yr average of 75%. About 38% of the crop is setting pods, about equal to where we were last year at 40% and for the 5-yr average of 38%. Conditions were described as 1% excellent, 47% good, 44% fair, 6% poor, and 2% very poor. Again, recent rains will help with the status report next week, I'm sure. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

News from Above the Lakes

I am getting numerous reports of fall armyworm (FAW) being sprayed in pastures. Bollworm/corn earworm (CEW) numbers are prevalent in soybeans and treatable in some fields. Pressure from FAW and CEW is reported as very high in peanuts near the SC/NC line.

News from Below the Lakes

Charles Davis, county agent covering Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties, reported that "we seem to be in a bit of a lull on bugs this week. I think the previous sprays might have knocked the stink bug population down a bit. However, a local consultant in his area is seeing a lot of stink bug eggs and bollworm moths, so we might be in for "round 2" with bugs and worms. I don't see a lot of sprayer activity this week, and today's rain might

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help that even further. A lot of cotton here has bloomed out the top. Last week's heat and dry soils shut down all but the irrigated cotton. Attention is turning to corn harvest." Jonathan Croft, county agent covering Dorchester and Berkeley Counties, reported that "I checked a few fields of cotton yesterday with a grower and at this time they do not need any insecticide treatments. I know of several growers that are spraying group 7 soybeans this week. We finally got a much needed rain right around lunch time today [Wednesday]."

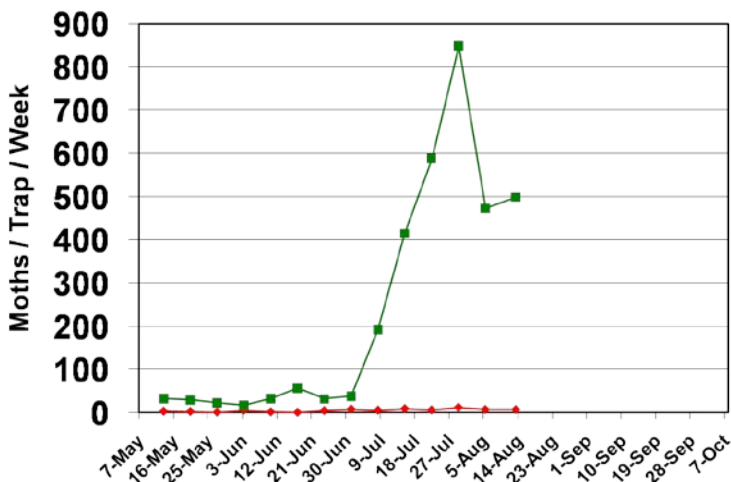
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



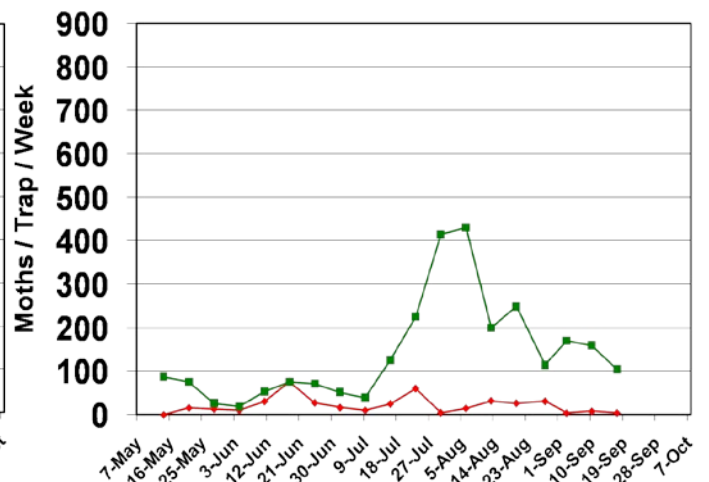
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season and last season are presented. The scales on the charts are the same to illustrate where we are compared with last year. We trapped almost 5,000 BW moths in 10 traps this past week to give us about 499/trap/wk. We averaged about 7 TBW moths per trap again this past week. Captures of BW moths have increased slightly and are still higher than the highest weekly capture for all of last year. Continue to check for bollworm escapes in Bollgard, Bollgard II, and WideStrike cotton varieties and use recommended thresholds. Continue to monitor for BW in soybeans also.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008



Bollworm, Fall Armyworm, and Stink Bugs

These are the pests that will take us to the end of the season in cotton. Although pressure from bollworm is declining, I had no trouble finding eggs in excess of 75/100 plants in my plots at EREC yesterday and today. We have 100% losses in our plots of untreated non-Bt cotton due to bollworm and measurable levels of injury in Bollgard, WideStrike, and Bollgard II. The local pressure has been extreme again this year. There are also sporadic fall armyworms (FAW) in these Bt technologies in our area. I took a few photos of FAW and bollworm yesterday (shown below). **They were not difficult to find.** Please remember that the darker forms of bollworm can look like FAW, and early instars of FAW can be confused with bollworm. The later instars (shown below) are much easier to distinguish – look for the prominent, inverted “Y” on the “forehead” of the FAW and for the prominent dark spots (called *tubercles*) on bollworm.

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Fall armyworms in cotton bolls. Notice the light and dark color forms.



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Bollworm (BW) on left and fall armyworm (FAW) on right in pre-floral bud and cotton boll, respectively. Notice the pronounced tubercles (black spots) on the BW and the “smooth” appearance of the FAW.

“Instant – View” Threshold Guide for Cotton Insects

Insect	Number per unit
Stink bugs (SB)	10-20% injury to medium-sized bolls (10% during 3-5 wk of bloom)
Bollworm (BW) 1 st generation Bt cotton	After 1 st bloom: 75 eggs, 30 small (<0.25 inch) or 3 larger (>0.25 inch) larvae per 100 plants, or 5% damaged bolls
Bollworm 2 nd generation Bt cotton	No threshold using eggs or small larvae; after 1 st bloom: 3 or more larger (>0.25 inch) larvae per 100 plants or 5% damaged bolls
Bollworm Non-Bt cotton	After 1 st bloom: 20 or more eggs or 3 small (<0.25 inch) larvae per 100 plants or 5% damaged squares
Tobacco budworm (TBW) Non-Bt cotton only – not found in Bt cotton	Before 1 st bloom: 15 small (<0.25 inch) larvae per 100 plants or 20% damaged squares; after 1 st bloom: 20 eggs or 3 small larvae per 100 plants or 5% damaged squares
Fall armyworm (FAW)	10 or more per 100 plants, checking blooms and bolls
Spider mites	50% of plants infested with actively growing colonies present

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2009 SC Cotton Growers' Guide, Pest Management Handbook, and Insect Control Guides

The 2009 South Carolina Cotton Growers' Guide is available from your local county office in paper copy or online at: <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/EC589.PDF>.

The 2009 Pest Management Handbook is available in limited quantities. Contact your local county office for availability. A \$10 fee might be charged for the handbook. You can also download the handbook from: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

Clemson University Publications IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) and SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) are available free from your local county office in paper copy or online at: <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF> and <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF>

Need More Information?

Log on to the following webpage to view important recommendations for cotton and soybean insect management, data, and historical cotton insect newsletters:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Associate Professor – Entomologist



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